THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Majority of faults are cleared within prescribed norms, although sometimes there is some delay in fault rectification due to long spans of dropwire, cable faults, subscriber reasons etc. No faults are, however, allowed to continue for months together.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) As per departmental rule, rent rebate is allowed to the subscriber whose telephone remains out of order continueously for 7 days or more. This rule is followed in all areas of MTNL, Delhi.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

New Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

1352. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision for setting up of telephone exchanges in Bihar was taken in the last year as per information given in the annual report of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges set up in Bihar so far; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98 alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) There is no mention of targets for setting up of new exchanges in the last year's annual report. However, there was a plan to set up new telephone exchanges where registered demand was 10 or more in Bihar.

(c) The number of telephone exchanges set up in Bihar during 1996-97 is 35.

(d) The number of telephone exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98 alongwith their locations is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

New Telephone Exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98

S. No.	Name of Telecom Distt.	Location
1	2	3
1.	Patna	Sampat Chak Dhanaura
2.	Ranchi	Bano Chainpur Jaldega Basia Bielwa Kurdeg
3.	Arrah	Narhi Chandi Tarari Pratapsagar Krishnasagar
4.	Bhagalpur	Bhikhanpur Kalajore Chandan
5.	Chhapra	Derni Maker Inshwapur
6.	Darbhanga	Alinagar Ghanshyampur Ladania Garhpura Bithan Khodabanpur
7.	Gaya	Kawacol BakeyBazau Roh Orhanpar Gurua
8.	Jamshedpur	Mango Kadma Hatgamaria Raj Nagar
9.	Katihar	Saidpur Rauta (Baisi)
10.	Munger	Rampur
11.	Sasaram	Satwarwa
12.	Hazaribagh	Sayal Hunterganj
13.	Dumka	Fatehpur Mohanpur
14.	Muzaffarpur	Musahari Benibad Basdeopur Chandel Mazorganj (Mubarakpur) Sarfuddinpur

[English]

Non-Functioning of Office of Doordarshan and AIR at Guwahati

1353. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a seperate zonal office of the Engineering Wing of D.D. and AIR network for North East Region was created and established at Guwahati in December, 1995 after bifurcating the combined zonal office Calcutta;

(b) whether the said office at Ganeshguri Guwahati is not functioning after one week of its establishment and the room is locked since then;

(c) if so, the reason for non-functioning; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The zonal office could not be made functional due to delay in sanction of staff and budgetary constraints. Partial staff has recently been sanctioned. The office would become functional as soon as staff is in position.

Gold Mine

1354. SHRI N.K. KRISHANDAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state ;

(a) whehter any process is going on for gold mining at Attappady hill area, Palghat District in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the feasibility of the mining of gold has been found so far?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Geological Survey of India (GSI), Unit : Kerala has an ongoing programme of preliminary exploration for gold in parts of Attappady velley in Palakkad District since 1990-91.

(c) The exploration work is at preliminary stage and hence the question of mining of gold does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone System in Haryana

1355. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village Panchayats in Haryana where telephones have been provided and yet to be provided under the policy of the Government, separately;

(b) the time by which telephones are likely to be made available in remaining village Panchayats;

(c) the number of Panchayats where telephones have been working properly and the number of those where such telephones are out of order and the time by which these telephones are likely to be made operational; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper working of telephones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of total 5946 village panchayats in Haryana, 5802 have been provided with telephone facility as on 23.7.97. 144 village panchayats are yet to be provided telephone facility.

(b) Remaining 144 village panchayats are likely to be provided with telephone facility during the current financial year i.e. 1997-98.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The following steps are being taken for proper working of telephone :-

1. Upgradation of outdoor plant.
2. Close coordination with local agencies for avoiding damages to underground cables.
3. Computerisation of fault repair service.
4. Laying of underground cables in ducts.
5. Use of jelly filled cables.
6. Use of improved qualify of drop wire.
7. Refresher training for the staff for improving the skill.
8. Public Telephones in villages are tested daily from concerned exchanges.
9. Annual Maintenance Contract for repair of radio equipments of Public Telephones has been entered into in most of the places.
10. Solar Power back-up for Public Telephones in villages are installed progressively wherever required.

Utilisation of JRY Funds

1356. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds allotted under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana by the Union Government have not been fully utilised in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for less utilisation of said amount in the States; and

(d) the steps taken or porposed to be taken by the Government in future to ensure full utilisation of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) State-wise details of funds allocated, released available and utilised during 1996-97 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Under JRY, 25% of the district allocation is allowed to be carried over to be utilised in the next financial year. However, if any district exceeds this limit of carryover deductions to the tune of 80% of the amount exceeded are made at the time of release of 2nd instalment in the next financial year.